



**TESTIMONY OF
MARGO DWYER
BEFORE THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

Friday, February 22, 2013

***HB 6350, AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2015,
AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVENUE***

Good afternoon. My name is Margo Dwyer and I am the manager of quality and regulatory management for Bristol Hospital and Health Care Group. I am here today to testify in opposition to ***HB 6350, AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2015, AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVENUE.***

My professional nursing mission for over 30 years has been and continues to be reflected in the "Florence Nightingale Pledge "I will be loyal and devoted towards the welfare of those committed to my care". You have heard from other medical professionals who have also taken an oath to keep patients from harm and injustice. "Do no harm", I began my career as an Emergency Department nurse in a Trauma Center and progressed to be a manager and director of Patient Safety, Quality and Risk Management and my mission in life remains " Patient Safety." I am appalled by the proposed \$550 million dollar hospital funding cuts by Governor Malloy. This will be financially devastating to Bristol Hospital, a community oriented hospital mission .It also will jeopardize my mission that helps to ensure that patients are provided with highest quality care based on national standards

Decreasing funding to Bristol Hospital by 3.1 million dollars will have a severe impact on the services Bristol Hospital provides to patients and the Bristol community. Each and every one of us has either been patients or will become a patient. Where do you propose we make budget or service cuts? Perhaps we should cut services to the aged and infirmed, cancer patients or perhaps the pediatric patients?

We as hospitals have been held accountable to be fiscally prudent by the federal ,state and local governments. We have previously risen to the occasion but we are currently lean to the bone. You as legislators are now potentially putting our patients at risk by these proposed cuts.

Due to the State of Connecticut's lack of financial responsibility you are now asking that the financial burden of the state be transferred over to our patients and families and communities

I wish the Governor could have been here at Bristol Hospital as well as other hospitals across the state during the blizzard two weeks ago. Dedicated employees ranging from doctors, nurses, unit secretaries, environmental and food service staff who made sure the vital services provided to our patients went interrupted. Staff stayed overnight away from their own families. Others braved the storm in white-out conditions to get here for their shifts.

How do we explain to these dedicated members of our staff that we potentially will have to decrease hours , staff or services provided due to these cuts?

As State leaders I believe you have lost your focus.

Bristol Hospital is open 24 hours day, seven days a week. Our staff is dedicated to the thousands of families who rely us for their care regardless of whether they can pay or not. The fate of our patients and families lies in your hands.

Our Bristol Hospital patients, staff and community are relying on you to make well informed decisions that will not compromise their health and well being now and in the future. Our communities need you to protect hospital funding. As you develop your budget, please protect Connecticut's hospitals.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.